

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of reducing the size of a block resonator filter,
comprising the following steps:

increasing the number of poles per block by providing respective discontinuities on
corners of the block resonator along a Y axis, a Z axis and a X axis thereof; and

forming said block with dielectric material.
2. (original): The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of coating
said block with a conductive layer.
3. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said dielectric is low loss and
has a high dielectric constant.
4. (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of
increasing the number of poles per block comprises ~~the following steps:~~

exciting a plurality of modes; ~~and~~

~~coupling said modes.~~

5. (original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said modes are mutually orthogonal.

Claim 6 is canceled.

7. (original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said step of exciting a plurality of modes, comprises using a probe to radiate energy into and out of said block resonator filter.

8. (original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said step of exciting a plurality of modes, comprises:

forming a hole in said block resonator filter;

plating an interior of said hole; and

fixing a connection from said plated hole to an external circuit.

Claims 9-23 are canceled.

24. (original): A filter assembly, comprising:

a block resonator filter;

a mask filter operably connected to said block resonator filter, wherein a passband of said mask filter is wider than a passband of said block resonator filter; and

a low-pass filter operably connected to said block resonator filter, wherein said low-pass filter rejects frequencies greater than the passband of said block resonator filter.

25. (original): The filter assembly according to claim 24, wherein said block resonator filter comprises more than one resonator per block.

26. (original): The filter assembly according to claim 24, wherein said block resonator filter is filled with dielectric.

27. (original): The filter assembly according to claim 24, wherein said block resonator filter is coated with a conductive layer.

28. (original): The filter assembly according to claim 24, wherein said block resonator filter comprises at least one corner cut.

29. (original): The filter assembly according to claim 24, further comprising an input probe operably coupled to said block resonator filter, wherein input power is coupled into said block resonator filter by said input probe.

30. (original): The filter assembly according to claim 24, further comprising:

a plated hole in said block resonator filter; and

a connection from said plated hole to an external circuit.

31. (original): The filter assembly according to claim 24, wherein said filter assembly is part of a communication system.

32. (original): The filter assembly according to claim method according to claim 26, wherein said dielectric is low loss and has a high dielectric constant.

33. (original): The filter assembly according to claim 28, wherein said at least one corner cut is oriented along a Y axis.

34. (original): The block resonator filter according to claim 28, wherein said at least one corner cut comprises:

a corner cut oriented along a Y axis;

a corner cut oriented along a X axis; and

a corner cut oriented along a Z axis.

35. (original): The block resonator filter according to claim 30, further comprising:

a corner cut oriented along a Y axis;

a corner cut oriented along a X axis; and

a corner cut oriented along a Z axis.

36. (currently amended): A block resonator filter, comprising:

a plurality of resonators; and

at least one corner cut,

wherein said at least one corner cut comprises a corner cut oriented along a Y axis, a corner cut oriented along a X axis, and a corner cut oriented along a Z axis.

37. (original): The block resonator filter according to claim 36, wherein said block resonator filter comprises more than one resonator per block.

38. (original): The block resonator filter according to claim 36, wherein said block resonator filter is filled with dielectric.

39. (original): The block resonator filter according to claim 36, wherein said block resonator filter is coated with a conductive layer.

40. (original): The block resonator filter according to claim 36, further comprising an input probe operably coupled to said block resonator filter, wherein input power is coupled into said block resonator filter by said input probe.

41. (original): The block resonator filter according to claim 36, further comprising:
a plated hole in said block resonator filter; and
a connection from said plated hole to an external circuit.

Claims 42 and 43 are canceled.

44. (original): The block resonator filter according to claim 38, wherein said dielectric is low loss and has a high dielectric constant.

45. (original): The block resonator filter according to claim 36, further comprising:

a second block resonator filter; and

a waveguide, whereby said waveguide links a first window in said block resonator with a second window in said second block resonator filter together.